

REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the Action, claim 1-6, 8-11 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP '198. In paragraph 3 of the Action, claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '198 in view of Udagawa.

In view of the rejections, claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clarify the invention, and claims 2-5, 8-13, 15, 17 and 18 have been cancelled. Also, new claims 19-23 have been filed.

In JP '198, a bead plate 1 includes beads 3 and support beads 5 around holes to be sealed, and a bead plate 2 includes beads 4 and support beads 6 around the holes. The beads 3 and support beads 5 project in the same direction, while the support beads 6 project in a direction opposite to the bead 4. When the gasket is assembled, the beads 3, 4 abut against each other, while support beads 5 are located inside the support beads 6.

In claim 1, the first outer and inner sub-bead sections project outwardly in a direction opposite to the first main bead, and the second outer and inner sub-bead sections project outwardly in a direction opposite to the second main bead. Namely, in each plate, the sub-bead sections project in a direction opposite to the main bead. In JP '198, in the bead plate 1, the bead 3 and the support beads 5 project in the same direction.

In claim 1, the distance between the second outer and inner sub-bead sections is greater than that between the first outer and inner sub-bead sections. In JP '198, the distance between the support beads 5 are the same as that between the support beads 6.

In claim 1, when the first and second metal base plates are assembled, the second outer and inner sub-bead sections face the first outer and inner sub-bead sections, and entirely sandwich the first outer and inner sub-bead sections therebetween to substantially abut against each other at side peripheries thereof.

In JP '198, when the gasket is assembled, the support beads 5 are located in the back sides of the support beads 6.

The features now clearly recited in claim 1 are not disclosed in JP '198. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by JP '198.

In claim 16, the sub-bead section is located outside the half bead, but in JP '198, the support beads are located on both sides of the beads 3, 4 or half beads 25, 26.

In claim 16, in each of the first and second metal base plates, the outer sub-bead located outside the half bead projects in a direction opposite to the half bead. In JP '198, the support bead 6 projects in the same direction of the half bead 26.

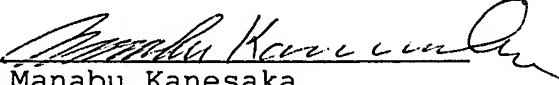
In claim 16, when the first and second metal base plates are assembled, the second outer sub-bead section faces an outer surface of the first outer sub-bead section and is located entirely outside the first outer sub-bead section to abut against thereto in a radial direction of the hole for restricting lateral movement of the first outer sub-bead section. In JP '198, the support bead 5 is completely located in the support bead 6 from the back side.

The features now clearly recited in claim 16 are not disclosed in JP '198. Claim 16 is not anticipated by JP '198.

Udagawa was cited to show the structure of claim 12, now cancelled. Although Udagawa has two beads or three beads as shown in Figs. 9 and 10, the features as recited in claims 1 and 16 are not disclosed.

As explained above, claims 1 and 16 are patentable over JP '198. Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

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